

**Burrillville**

**Recreation Commission**

**RE: Minutes, November 14, 2006**

**Present:**

**Cheri Hall, Director     Dave Marcotte**

**Kurt Schatz, Chair     Alan Gerew**

**Alice Lavigne, Vice Chair     Juliette Lopez-Recinos**

**Guest: Lynn Clark & Brian Pitts**

**Absent: -----**

**Excused: Al Low & Al Musso**

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chairperson, at the Burrillville Town Hall.**

**Minutes of October 10, 2006 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Correspondence:**

**A letter from National Alliance for Youth Sports giving recognition at**

**their annual banquet to the Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department for its twenty years of commitment to the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NYSCA) coaches training program was shared with the commission and will be shared with the Town Council.**

**A reminder letter was received from the Town of Burrillville requesting an updated 2007 meeting calendar.**

**A letter from the Town of Burrillville notifying of renewal of Al Low and David Marcotte's term expirations.**

**A motion was made to not recommend the renewal of Al Musso's appointment to the Recreation Commission. Motion made by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Seconded by Alan Gerew. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Special Guest: Lynn Clark and Brian Pitts**

**Good & Welfare:**

**The Director reminded the Recreation Commission of Thursday, November 16, 2006 Bicentennial Banquet.**

**Old Business:**

**The Director made a recommendation to move the Freedom Park and Relay for Life agenda items to be first as part of Old Business.**

## **Freedom Park**

**The Director reported that there is a major concern regarding teens and graffiti at Freedom Park at this time. Signs have been purchased to emphasize the ages allowed on the equipment with parental supervision. A gate with a latch will be placed at Freedom Park at the fence opening to avoid children being able to run directly into the street.**

**Previously a request was made to the Town Council regarding an ordinance request to close the town parks at dusk versus 10:00 p.m. but it was not approved. The Director proposed revisiting this issue due to the current park problems and liability issues.**

**Brian Pitts reported that the teens at Freedom Park have been using profanity around his young child, making the equipment not accessible for the younger children and making for a dangerous situation. He also reported that numerous neighbors of Freedom Park are complaining about the situation.**

**A motion was made for a letter from the Recreation Commission be sent to the Town Council voicing the current concerns regarding the town park closing times, liability issues and graffiti to be forwarded to the Ordinance Subcommittee to allow for earlier park closings and enforcement. Motion made by David Marcotte. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **Relay for Life**

**Kurt Schatz reported that there was a lengthy discussion at the October 10, 2006 Recreation Commission meeting regarding the Relay for Life being held in 2007 in Burrillville. The commission delayed any decision until the Director and David Marcotte could review the minutes. Since there was already a vote taken at a previous meeting, there will be no further decision to be made at this time.**

**Lynn Clark spoke to the commission about her love of the Burrillville Relay for Life community event for her and her family. She was surprised over the Recreation Commission's decision to not have the Relay for Life in Burrillville in 2007 since there were over 200 participants in last year's event.**

**Kurt Schatz stated that after considering the information given at the October 10, 2006 Recreation Commission meeting, the Recreation Commission has decided not to support the event in Burrillville for 2007 but recommended that the event can be brought up again for future consideration once certain problems have been addressed.**

**Lynn Clark voiced her concerns over losing momentum by missing a year and reviewed what she has done to prepare for the proposed 2007 event. The Director suggested merging Burrillville's participants with another local community's Relay for Life event. Alan Gerew**

**stated that numerous issues were not addressed after they had been brought to the American Cancer Society's attention and these issues would have to be addressed before considering the reinstatement of the Relay for Life in Burrillville.**

**Juliette Lopez-Recinos stated that since the vote has already been taken and is final unless the person who made the motion would revisit the item. Kurt Schatz stated that the Recreation Commission will not be changing their position regarding this issue at this time.**

**The Director will be notifying Building Official Joe Raymond of the Recreation Commission's vote to not hold the Relay for Life at Branch River Park during 2007.**

### **Branch River Track**

**The Director reported that the Branch River Track resurfacing has been completed with the certified lining to take place in the near future. A few calls have been received regarding the lighting problems at the track. The Director is in the process of researching new efficient lighting including grant funding for the facility.**

### **Field Use Fees**

**A motion to table the Field Use Fees was made. Motion made by David Marcotte. Seconded by Alan Gerew. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **Park Signs**

**A sign was purchased for Hauser Field stating “Park Closed for the Season” and a replacement sign was purchased for the Skateboard Park reiterating the allowed hours of use.**

## **Vacancy for Recreation Commission**

**The Director notified the Recreation Commission that Kevin McDonald has applied for the Recreation Commission opening.**

## **Road Race-Update and Financial Report**

**There were 98 participants in this year’s Snakes Alive Road Race with over \$3,000 raised due to the generous support of many local businesses. Recreation Commission member Alice Lavigne was very helpful by getting gift certificates for the participant raffle. Any trophies not taken will be reused next year. The Director thanked the Recreation Commission members who assisted the day of the race.**

## **Callahan Playground**

**The Director was involved in the new Callahan Playground since Burrillville Extended Care does utilize the site for their after school**

program. Overseeing of the project due to the Director's Playground Certification was completed. A letter has been submitted to the Levy Foundation for the unanticipated extra funding of \$5,700 needed due to the site conditions. The playground, which was purchased by the school, will only be available during school hours due to town regulations.

A request was received from the Austin T. Levy School Parent Committee requesting the Director's assistance with their upcoming playground renovations. Concerns were voiced that if funding is being sought by the Director for school playgrounds from the same grant sources by the Parks and Recreation Department then, these grant sources would become over utilized. The Austin T. Levy School Parent Committee was forwarded grant source information.

Judy Lopez-Recinos questioned if the Recreation Commission had received any further information regarding the current conditions of the Levy Community Rink. Town Council member Nancy Binns had e-mailed Recreation Commission member Alan Gerew that there is currently an audit being completed of the Levy Community Rink.

**New Business:**

**Holiday Cards**

Holiday cards are being sent to the Burrillville military that are on

active duty. Bicentennial ornaments funded by the Bicentennial Committee are being sought by the Parks and Recreation Department. A Bicentennial ornament and Bicentennial mug have been given to the Bicentennial Committee for the time capsule.

## **Christmas Programs**

Santa on the Town Common flyers were shared with the commission.

Three internet Santa Calling forms have been received to date with forms to be distributed to the elementary schools during the week following Thanksgiving break.

Recreation Commission member Juliette Lopez-Recinos requested the Parks and Recreation Department send a thank you to Leonard Moore's daughter for supplying Santa's chair for the Santa on the Town Common event.

## **Recreation/Open Space usage fees in lieu of land**

The Town Planner informed the Director that due to a current development project, the Parks and Recreation Department will be receiving \$23,000 to be utilized from Recreation/Open Space usage fees in lieu of land. It was mentioned to the Town Planner that in the past the Recreation Commission was involved in the decision



**process of fees versus land for Recreation/Open Space.**

**The Director will be submitting recommendations for the Capital Improvement budget for where the \$23,000 could be utilized as a match for different capital improvement projects.**

### **Revised Meeting Schedule**

**A revised meeting schedule was sent to the Recreation Commission members regarding the location change to the new Parks and Recreation offices at 92 North Main Street, Pascoag from the Town Hall location.**

### **Volleyball**

**Due to the availability of the new Callahan School gymnasium, the Director is proposing a new recreational volleyball program to be offered as an after school program. Recreation Commission member David Marcotte has volunteered to be the volleyball instructor for the different age groups with the assistance of high school volleyball players. Unused nets can be utilized from the High School program and the volleyball poles would not be necessary until a later date.**

**The Director will be meeting with the Callahan School Principal to review the new gym time scheduling process.**

## **Capital Improvement Project Budget**

**The Director proposed utilizing the \$23,000 from the Recreation/Open Space usage fees in lieu of land as a match for replacement playground equipment at the Hauser Field playground.**

**The tennis courts at Branch River Park are in need of resurfacing. Narragansett Improvement will be supplying a quote for the CIP budget request. The matching funds for this project could possibly be supported through a small grant application to the Department of Environmental Management Recreational Open Space grant round.**

**The lights at Branch River Park are in need of replacement and a larger grant application to the Department of Environmental Management Recreational Open Space grant round could possibly be utilized as matching funds.**

**David Marcotte stated that the fields need to be re-cut for Men's Softball and a new Men's Softball facility needs to be sought. The Director stated that the plans for a new Men's Softball facility, including the engineering plans, were already included in previous CIP budget proposal. This request will be revisited.**

**The Director will be submitting for a new SUV vehicle since the prior Parks & Recreation Department vehicle is not fixable and the Director's vehicle will not accommodate what is necessary and**

**personal insurance might not cover business usage.**

**Kurt Schatz mentioned the reemphasis on a teen center in town. The Director stated that this project is still part of the future CIP budget.**

**The financial breakdown from the Snakes Alive Road Race and November monthly calendars were distributed to the Recreation Commission.**

**Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by David Marcotte. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion Passed 4-0.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2006 6:30p.m., Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices,  
Pascoag, RI. 92 North Main Street,**

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